

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee Meeting of-the-Whole
August 11, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott (Chair), Commissioners Jose Cruz, Van White, Allen Williams; Bolgen Vargas, Vern Connors, Jerome Underwood, Parent Representative: Felix Jacobs, Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Absent: Commissioners Melissa Campos, Malik Evans, Willa Powell

Commissioner Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Whole met on August 11th have a discussion on Capital Planning, Facilities Modernization (FMP and the Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

Commissioner Elliott opened the meeting by noting that the committee needed to have a discussion of the District's relationship with the City of Rochester and their intention not to issue further bonds for the District and the financial impact that decisions would have on the Capital Improvement Program and its relationship with the Facilities Modernization Program and the Maintenance of Effort legislation.

Both the Assembly and the State introduced bills relating to debt payments for the Rochester city School District's facilities; and there was concern over the language in both bills.

The Assembly bill states "Payment of debt service on any bonds, notes or other obligations issued to finance projects undertaken pursuant to this act **shall not be considered debt service payments of the City School District** for purposes of subparagraph (II) of paragraph A of subdivision 5-B of section 2576 of the Education Law."

However, the Senate bill states "All payments, including lease payments and debt service on any bonds, notes or other obligations issued to finance projects undertaken pursuant to this act **shall be considered debt service payments of the City School District** for purposes of subparagraph (II) of paragraph A of subdivision 5-B of Section 2576 of

the Education Law in a manner consistent with the legislative intent of such section.”

There was consensus by all that it seems to be clear in both versions of the bill that the City **should not** incur any further debt service. Because of this, the committee concluded that a letter would be sent from the Board President to Assemblyman Gantt and to Senator Robach requesting clarification on the differences in their bills and how those differences can be resolved.

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to send letters to Assemblyman Gantt and Senator Robach requesting their guidance on how their respective Bills will affect the Rochester City School District’s MOE requirements; seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 4-0.**

The next Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting will be held on October 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.